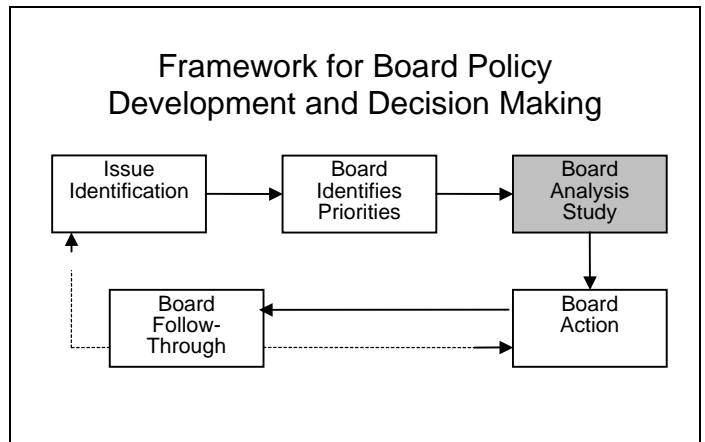


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

February 7, 2007



**Agenda Item:** Freshman Admission Requirements to Iowa Regent Universities

**Iowa Goal:** 3. Iowans will pursue higher education that results in an improved quality of life supported by better economic opportunities through high skill employment.

**Equity Impact Statement:** Higher education improves the quality of life for Iowans.

**Presenters:** Gary Steinke, Executive Director, Board of Regents  
Diana Gonzalez, Policy and Operations Officer, Board of Regents  
Mary Ellen Becker, Regent

**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board hear and discuss this information.

**Background:** The Board of Regents established a study team to review the criteria for admitting students to the Regents institutions. This Admissions Study Team sought input from a number of experts and educators including the State Board President and Department of Education Director.

As a result of this study, the Board of Regents has adopted a new set of freshman admission requirements to Iowa Regent Universities. The new Regent Admission Index factors in a combination of ACT composite score, high school rank, high school grade point average, and number of core subject area courses completed in high school. These factors have been

**found to predict academic success at the Regent universities and are consistent with the State Board and Department of Education priority encouraging students to take a rigorous curriculum throughout their high school careers.**

## FRESHMAN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS TO IOWA REGENT UNIVERSITIES

The admission of freshman applicants to the Iowa Regent Universities is based on a Regent Admission Index which combines four factors: ACT composite score, high school rank, high school grade point average, and number of high school courses completed in the core subject areas.

A Regent Admission Index (RAI) will be calculated for each freshman applicant using the equation below:

$$\text{RAI} = (2 \times \text{ACT composite score}) + (1 \times \text{high school rank}) + (20 \times \text{high school grade point average}) + (5 \times \text{number of high school courses completed in the core subject areas})$$

*Note: For purposes of calculating the Regent Admission Index, ACT composite score has a top value of 36 (SAT scores will be converted to ACT composite equivalent); high school rank is expressed as a percentile with 99% as the top value; high school GPA is expressed on a 4-point scale; and number of high school courses completed in the core subject areas is expressed in terms of years or fractions of years of study<sup>1</sup>.*

Freshman applicants from Iowa high schools who have an RAI of at least 245 and who meet the minimum number of high school courses required by the Regent universities will qualify for automatic admission to any of the three Regent universities. Freshman applicants who have an RAI below 245 may also be admitted to a specific Regent university; however, each Regent university will review these applications on an individual basis and the admission decision will be specific to each institution. Freshman applicants from approved high schools in other states may be held to higher academic standards, but must meet at least the same requirements as graduates of Iowa high schools.

The Regent universities recognize that the traditional measures of academic performance do not adequately describe some students' potential for success. Therefore, the Regent universities strongly encourage all interested students to apply for admission. Applicants who feel their academic record is not an accurate reflection of their potential for success are encouraged to provide supplemental information explaining their circumstances in addition to the application, academic transcripts, and test scores.

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<sup>1</sup> Applicants who do not possess all required factors will be evaluated on an individual basis by each Regent university.

### High School Course Requirements for Admission

In addition to the requirements stated previously, freshman applicants must also meet the minimum high school course requirements for their institution of choice as indicated below.

| Subject Area                      | Iowa State University   | The University of Iowa  | University of Northern Iowa   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| <b>English/<br/>Language Arts</b> | Four years of English/Language Arts emphasizing writing, speaking, reading, as well as an understanding and appreciation of literature.   | Four years, with an emphasis on the analysis and interpretation of literature, composition, and speech.   | Four years, including one year of composition; also may include one year of speech, communication, or journalism.   |
| <b>Math</b>                       | Three years, including one year each of algebra, geometry, and advanced algebra.  | Three years, including two years of algebra and one year of geometry, for admission to the <b>College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</b> . Four years, including two years of algebra, one year of geometry, and one year of higher mathematics (trigonometry, analysis, or calculus), for admission to the <b>College of Engineering</b> . | Three years, including the equivalent of algebra, geometry, and advanced algebra.   |
| <b>Natural Science</b>            | Three years, including one year each from any two of the following: biology, chemistry, and physics.  | Three years, including one year each from any two of the following: biology, chemistry, and physics for admission to the <b>College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</b> . Three years, including at least one year of chemistry and one year of physics for admission to the <b>College of Engineering</b> .                                 | Three years, including courses in general science, biology, chemistry, earth science, or physics; laboratory experience highly recommended.   |
| <b>Social Sciences</b>            | Two years for admission to the <b>Colleges of Agriculture, Business, Design, Human Sciences, and Engineering</b> . Three years for admission to the <b>College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</b> .   | Three years, with U.S. history and world history recommended, for admission to the <b>College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</b> . Two years, with U.S. history and world history recommended, for admission to the <b>College of Engineering</b> .   | Three years, including courses in anthropology, economics, geography, government, history, psychology, or sociology.  |
| <b>Foreign Language</b>           | Two years of a single foreign language for admission to the <b>College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</b> . This requirement will also apply to the <b>College of Engineering</b> beginning Fall 2009. Foreign language courses are not required for admission to the <b>Colleges of Agriculture, Business, Design, or Human Sciences</b> . | Two years of a single foreign language.   | Foreign language courses are not required for admission. However, two years of a foreign language in high school with a C- or above in the last term will meet the university graduation requirement. |
| <b>Other Courses</b>              | Specific elective courses are not required for admission to Iowa State University.  | Specific elective courses are not required for admission to the University of Iowa.   | Two years of additional courses from the required subject areas, foreign languages, or fine arts.   |

Note: Non-resident freshman applicants may be held to higher standards for admission, but must meet at least the same requirements as resident freshman applicants.